

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In section 2 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as indicated in an office action dated August 28, 2006, as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,993,317 to Belsak, Jr. (hereinafter “the Belsak, Jr. patent”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,973,087 to Fong (hereinafter “the Fong patent”). Applicant is clarifying an aspect of the claims that is neither disclosed nor suggested by either of the Belsak, Jr. or Fong patents.

Claim 1 provides for a system that includes, *inter alia*, a first repeater, a second repeater, a third repeater and a fourth repeater, each of which is coupled to a wire that is common to said first, second, third and fourth repeaters. The first repeater and the second repeater communicate with each other on a first band for a transmission from the first repeater to the second repeater, and on a second band for a transmission from the second repeater to the first repeater. The third repeater and the fourth repeater communicate with each other on the second band for a transmission from the third repeater to the fourth repeater, and on the first band for a transmission from the fourth repeater to the third repeater.

The Belsak Jr. patent discloses a system in which repeaters are implemented on different conductors so that the distance between adjacent repeaters on any one conductor is greatly extended (col. 2, lines 40 – 44). For example, the Belsak, Jr. patent, with reference to FIG. 3, describes a power line L1 that comprises three separate phase lines P1, P2 and P3, with an arrangement of repeaters 71, 72, 73, 74, 75 and 76 distributed thereon (col. 6, lines 4 - 46). Repeater 71 is implemented on phase line P1 (col. 6, lines 46 – 47). Repeater 72 receives signals from receiver 71 via a wireless link 102, and transmits signals S2 over phase line P2 (col. 6, lines 47 – 50). Signals are further communicated (a) from repeater 72 to repeater 73, via phase line P2, (b) from repeater 73 to repeater 74 via a wireless link 104, (c) from repeater 74 to repeater 75, via phase line P3, and (d) from repeater 75 to repeater 76, via a wireless link 106 (col. 6, lines 50 – 55). The Belsak, Jr. refers to this arrangement as “phase line hopping” (col. 6, line 57).

Whereas the Belsak, Jr. patent expressly teaches phase line hopping, wherein repeaters are implemented on different conductors, the Belsak, Jr. patent does not disclose:

- (a) a first repeater, a second repeater, a third repeater and a fourth repeater, each of which is coupled to a **wire that is common** to said first, second, third and fourth repeaters,
  - (b) wherein said first repeater and said second repeater communicate with each other **via said wire**,
  - (c) wherein said second repeater and said third repeater communicate with each other **via said wire**, and
  - (d) wherein said third repeater and said fourth repeater communicate with each other **via said wire**,
- in combination with the other features of claim 1.

Applicant further submits that the Fong patent does not disclose the above-noted features of claim 1, and therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of the Belsak, Jr. and Fong patents.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1. By virtue of this dependence, claim 2 is also patentable over the cited combination of the Belsak, Jr. and Fong patents.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the section 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 2.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and that this application be passed to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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